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Action

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FROM: Caracas

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 470, October 16, 5 p.m.

EMBTel 459

During discussions with President Betancourt this morning, I followed up on possibility of Venezuela taking action re shipping to Cuba similar to US actions. Suggested President might wish to consider taking initiative by corresponding with Presidents Colombia, Costa Rica, and other regional governments with view to concerted action along these lines.

President indicated he was favorably inclined to this course but wished await return Foreign Minister Falcon Briceno in next few days from UNGA before initiating action.

Suggest USUN mention to Falcon my conversation with President as given above, in order he may return with accurate picture US actions and position and have opportunity, should he so desire, consult other regional FONMINS.

FYI. President further indicated that while willing cooperate ad hoc with US in individual measures such as above, he was highly unenthusiastic about formal Caribbean anti-Castro organization as proposed by Panama.

Reiterated his thesis that Cuban problem was one for OAS as whole. End FYI.

STUART

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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